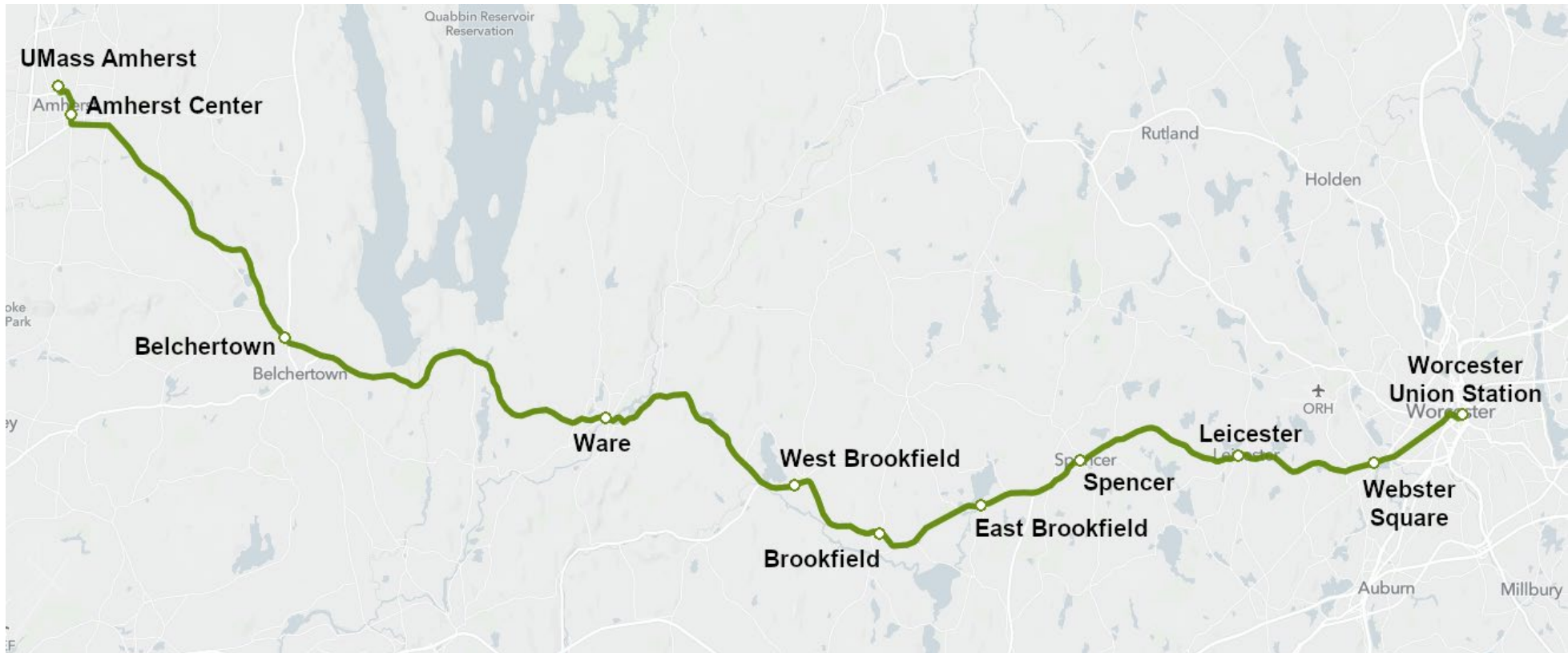


# VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

## Amherst/Worcester Intercity Service

### PVTA AND QUABOAG CONNECTOR



# Intercity Bus Program



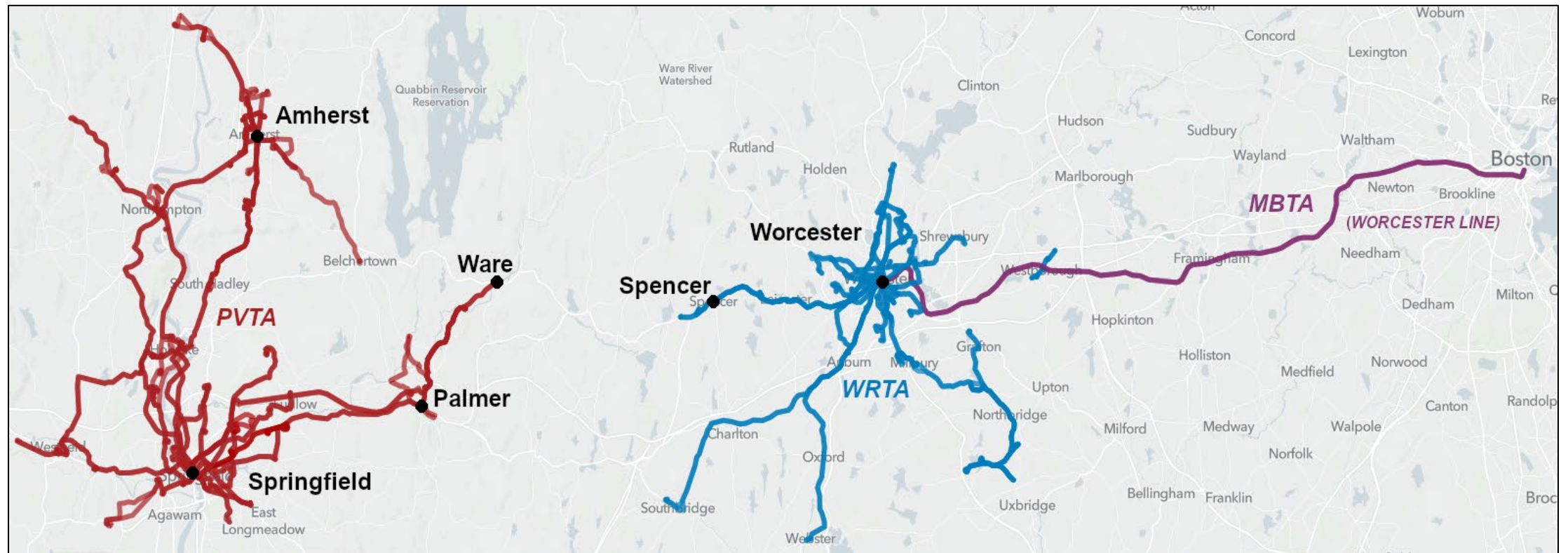
- Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program: federal funds competitively distributed by MassDOT
- The national objectives for the Intercity Bus Program are to support the connection between rural areas and the larger regional or national system of intercity bus service, helping to meet the intercity travel needs of residents of rural areas
- The Amherst-Worcester (Rt. 9 Local) route was identified as a service gap and recommended in MassDOT's [2015 Regional Bus Network Assessment](#) and Quaboag Connector Needs

# Specific Grant Requirements Massachusetts Department of Transportation

## **The Grant specifies that the Northampton Amherst Worcester Route**

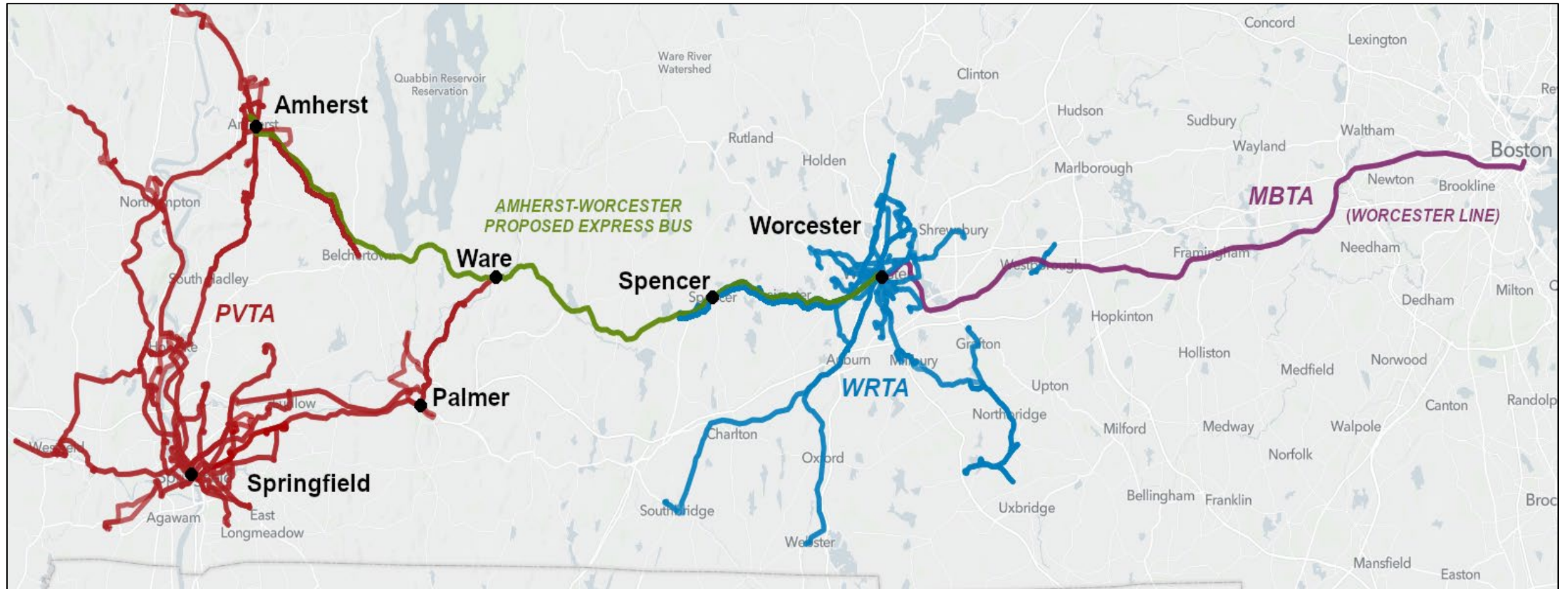
- Fill service gaps along Route 9 in between Ware and Worcester using an intercity service model.
- Provides connections from rural towns to urban centers in Worcester and the Pioneer Valley.
- Serves Amherst and Worcester
- Provides stops in the following communities to connect with urban center;  
**Amherst, Belchertown, Ware, West Brookfield, Leicester**

# Existing Configuration





# With Amherst-Worcester (Rt. 9 Local)



# Amherst-Worcester Route Summary

- Partnership between PVRTA and the Quaboag Connector to operate the pilot service connecting UMass Amherst and Worcester
  - intermediate stops at Amherst Center, Belchertown, Ware, West Brookfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Spencer, Leicester, and Webster Square
- 49-mile route segment operating primarily along MA Route 9 corridor
- 1 hour and 45 minutes travel time
- 3-daily round trips on weekdays, Saturday, and Sunday
- Timed connections with MBTA commuter rail trains to/from Boston
- Distance-based fares ranging from \$3.50 to \$9.00
- Tentative start date July 12, 2021

# Proposed Timetable and Fare

NEW AMHERST-WORCESTER SERVICE									COMMUTER RAIL	
UMASS AMHERST	BELCHERTOWN	WARE	WEST BROOKFIELD	BROOKFIELD	EAST BROOKFIELD	SPENCER	LEICESTER	WORCESTER	WORCESTER	BOSTON
						drop off only	drop off only			
6:55 AM	7:17 AM	7:40 AM	7:54 AM	8:04 AM	8:08 AM	8:15 AM	8:25 AM	8:40 AM	9:00 AM	10:33 AM
11:55 AM	12:17 PM	12:40 PM	12:54 PM	1:04 PM	1:08 PM	1:15 PM	1:25 PM	1:40 PM	2:00 PM	4:00 PM
4:10 PM	4:32 PM	4:55 PM	5:09 PM	5:19 PM	5:23 PM	5:30 PM	5:40 PM	5:55 PM	6:00 PM	7:28 PM

COMMUTER RAIL		NEW AMHERST-WORCESTER SERVICE								
BOSTON	WORCESTER	WORCESTER	LEICESTER	SPENCER	EAST BROOKFIELD	BROOKFIELD	WEST BROOKFIELD	WARE	BELCHERTOWN	UMASS AMHERST
			pick up only	pick up only						
6:55 AM	8:20 AM	8:40 AM	8:55 AM	9:05 AM	9:12 AM	9:16 AM	9:26 AM	9:40 AM	10:03 AM	10:25 AM
11:50 AM	1:20 PM	1:40 PM	1:55 PM	2:05 PM	2:12 PM	2:16 PM	2:26 PM	2:40 PM	3:03 PM	3:25 PM
4:05 PM	5:23 PM	5:55 PM	6:10 PM	6:20 PM	6:27 PM	6:31 PM	6:41 PM	6:55 PM	7:18 PM	7:40 PM

Connect to a WRTA bus at their “Hub” at Union Station. This allows you to travel extensively in the Worcester area.

To/From:	Amherst	Belchertown	Ware	West Brookfield	Brookfield	East Brookfield	Spencer	Leicester	Worcester
Amherst	N/A	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
Belchertown	\$3.50	N/A	\$3.50	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
Ware	\$3.50	\$3.50	N/A	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
West Brookfield	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$3.50	N/A	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00
Brookfield	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$3.50	\$3.50	N/A	\$3.50	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00
East Brookfield	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	N/A	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00
Spencer	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Leicester	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Worcester	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	N/A	N/A	N/A

# Alternative Routes

- To address operational challenges PVRTA has explored various alternatives that include:
  - Deviation off MA Route 9 at Ware (to Interstate I-90 in Palmer)
  - Deviation off MA Route 9 at MA Route 31 in Spencer Center
  - Deviation off MA Route 9 to MA Route 56 and Stafford Street to Union Station
  - Deviation off MA Route 9 to MA Route 56 and Interstate I-290 to Union Station



# Alternative Routes Analysis

- Deviation off MA Route 9 at Ware (to Interstate I-90 in Palmer)

*This alternative was rejected. It fails to meet conditions of the grant missing several key communities. Despite offering significant travel time savings it adds additional mileage and costs.*

- Deviation off MA Route 9 at MA Route 31 in Spencer Center

*This alternative was rejected. It fails to meet conditions of the grant missing a key community. This deviation offers no travel time or cost savings*

# Alternative Routes Analysis

Each alternative below meets the conditions of the grant, providing potentially viable options in the event of traffic concerns between Leicester Center and Union Station.

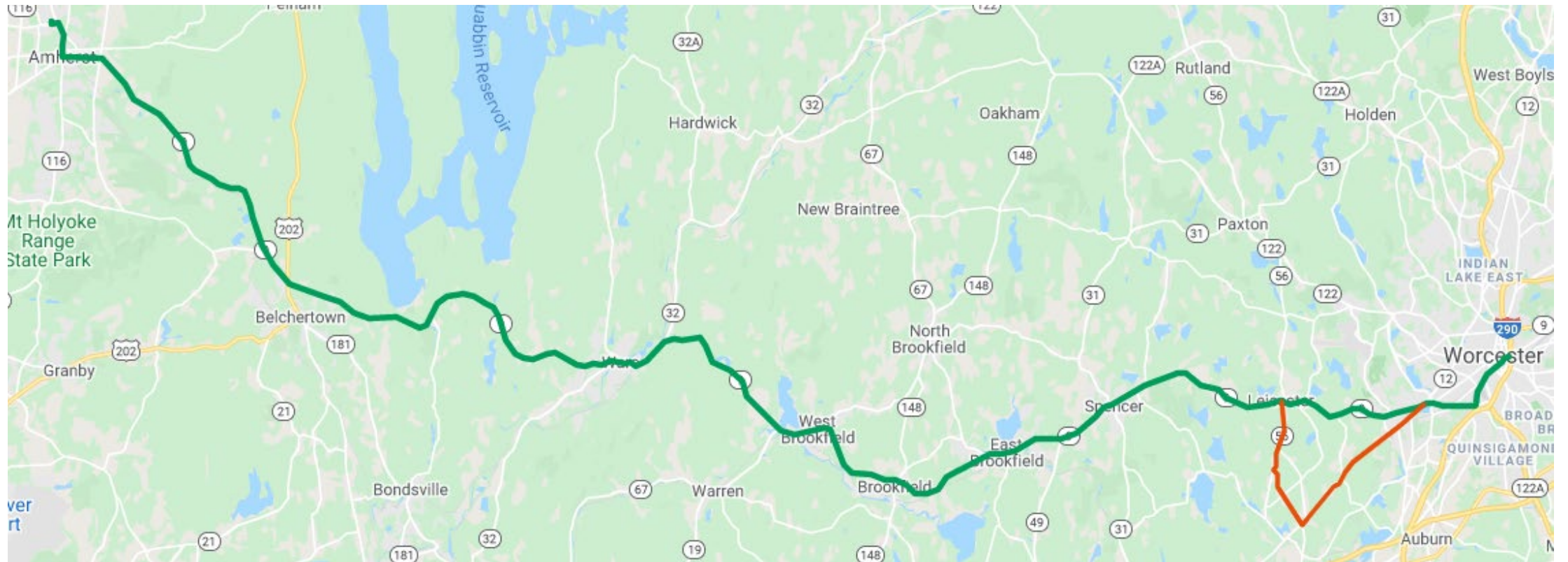
- A. MA Route 9 to MA Route 56 and Stafford Street to Union Station
- B. MA Route 9 to MA Route 56 and Interstate I-290 to Union Station

Both options add travel time, which may be offset by expected delays along MA Route 9 and in Worcester itself.

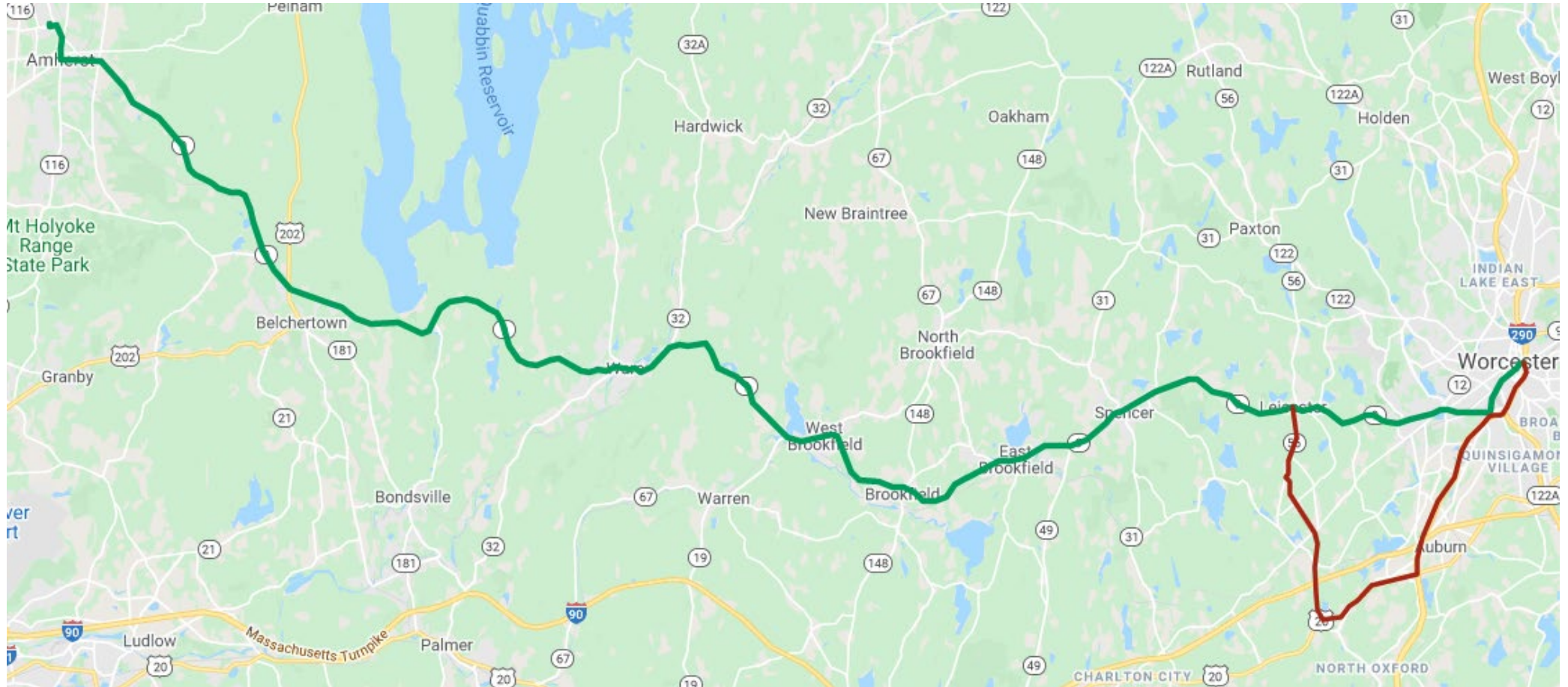
Both of these options, however, do add cost and miles as follows;

- A. Adds 6.1 miles per round trip and increases the cost by 5%
- B. Adds 14.7 miles per round trip and increases the cost by 9%

# Alternative Routes: Route 9 to Route 56 and Stafford St. to Union Station



# Alternative Routes: Route 9 to Route 56 and I-290 to Union Station



# Additional Ways to Comment

- **Email:** Comments@pvta.com
- **Phone:** Call (413) 732-6248 x2237 and leave up to a 3-min message
- **Online:** Complete comment form at [www.pvta.com](http://www.pvta.com)
- **Survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WKWD366>